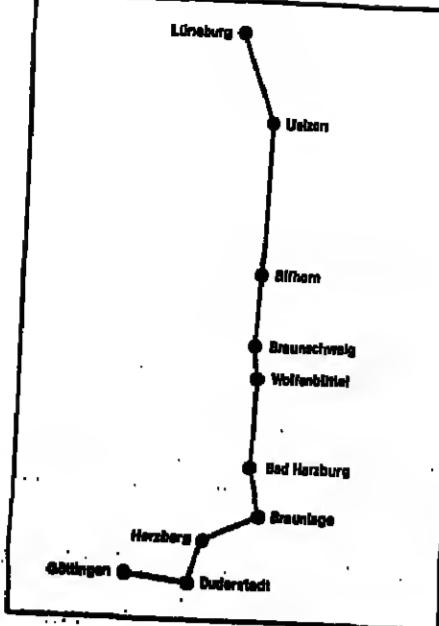


Routes to tour in Germany



The Harz and Heath Route



German roads will get you there — to areas at times as attractive that one route leads to the next, from the Harz mountains to the Lüneburg Heath, easy. Maybe you should take a look at both. The Harz, northernmost part of the Mittelgebirge range, is holiday country all the year round. In summer for hikers, in winter for skiers in their tens of thousands. Tour from the hill resorts of Osterode, Clausthal-Zellerfeld or Bad Harzburg or from the 1,000-

year-old town of Goslar. The Heath extends from Celle, with its town centre of half-timbered houses unscathed by war and the oldest theatre in Germany, to Lüneburg, also 1,000 years old. It boasts wide expanses of flat countryside, purple heather and herds of local curly-horned sheep.

Visit Germany and let the Harz and Heath Route be your guide.



- 1 Brunswick
- 2 An old Lüneburg Heath farmhouse
- 3 The Harz
- 4 Göttingen

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High-level talks between Bonn and Tokyo, extremely important yet largely unnoticed by public opinion in the Federal Republic of Germany, were recently held in the Japanese capital.

The two-day consultations were described by Japanese commentators as the first high-grade talks on security policy ever held by Tokyo and Bonn.

They were the first bilateral contacts between the two governments since the Williamsburg summit, at which Japan made its debut as an active partner of the Atlantic alliance on missile disarmament.

With these and Japan as the farthest US partner in containing Communist influence in the world by economic means one wonders whether Europe might not be in the process of missing a bandwagon that has already started to roll.

State secretary Berndt von Staden of

Continued on page 2

28 August 1983
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The German Tribune

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EEC struggles to find the right formula

apparent these days at the European Parliament, direct elections to which were first held in 1979.

Since Greece joined the Community in 1981 the Strasbourg Parliament has represented about 270 million people in the 10 EEC countries.

The European Parliament, which commutes between Strasbourg, Brussels and Luxembourg, may not have achieved anything spectacular in the past four years, but that could hardly be expected given its limited powers.

Yet it stands for the real political achievement of the 1950s. Euro-MPs are freely elected representatives of 10 European nation-states that have fought on opposite sides in two world wars this century.

There is no reason for glossing over current state of the Community. Common Agricultural Policy, the only fully integrated European policy, has pushed it to the brink of bankruptcy.

The reform of the CAP, which has been postponed for years, now seems likely to be making headway under a shortage of funds that has made the search for compromises no easier.

An increase in funds for the EEC's

cult partners, countries for which European union as a political objective is neither an urgent target nor an affair of the heart.

Reservations on the Stuttgart solemn declaration, which at least officially reiterated the political target of European integration, were also expressed by Greece.

Other governments that were likewise far from wildly enthusiastic about the declaration chose not to voice their views on the subject.

With southern expansion of the Community to include Spain and Portugal on the agenda, cooperation in Western Europe seems sure to grow more comprehensive.

But intensification of EEC integration seems likely to be the last in this process.



(Cartoon: Horst Hitzinger/Nordwest Zeitung)

No one need be in any doubt that the more partners there are in the Community the more difficult it will become to arrive at a common denominator for their various interests.

It will also be more difficult to arrive at decisions that go above and beyond a compromise that is tolerable for all concerned.

There will need to be a counterweight to ensure that stagnation on integration does not lead to decline.

The European Commission, which its first president, Walter Hallstein, described as the custodian and driving force behind European integration, no longer has the force needed.

It has long ceased to have it and is now politically, if not legally, dependent on member-governments.

Besides, its motive force has been largely exhausted by years of bureaucratic administration of mountains of butter, beef and other farm produce for which the Commission is by no means solely to blame.

That leaves the weakest Community institution, the European Parliament, whose members have done far from bad work since the first direct elections in June 1979, especially when their limited opportunities are borne in mind.

They have shown, up to an point, that European domestic policies are possible. Direct elections to the European Parliament will be held again between 14 and 17 June 1984.

Those who support European integration, even if, for good reasons, they are dissatisfied with the present state of affairs, owe it to Euro-MPs to strengthen their hand by voting.

The Parliament alone cannot accomplish decisive progress in European affairs, but if it is backed by a majority of Euro-voters what it has to say will carry greater weight with member-governments and the European Commission.

Günther Nonnenmacher
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
für Deutschland, 20 August 1983)

WORLD AFFAIRS

Reagan trip shows US concern for South-East Asia

President Reagan is to visit South-East Asia in November. He will be the first US President to do so since the Vietnam war.

The strategic importance of the region has been rediscovered by the Reagan administration.

South-East Asia has undergone sweeping changes since the inglorious US withdrawal from Saigon in April 1975.

Hanoi holds sway throughout Indo-China and the Soviet Union has established a foothold.

The Russians have armed Vietnam to the teeth, making Hanoi a regional superpower and enabling the Vietnamese to conquer Kampuchea.

In return the Soviet Union has been allowed to establish military bases of its own.

Non-Communist South-East views the trend with growing anxiety. Governments of the ASEAN countries, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia have urged the United States to pursue a more active Asian policy as a counterweight to Soviet influence.

They would like Washington to exert greater pressure on Hanoi to withdraw Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.

That was the message ASEAN Foreign Ministers conveyed to US Secretary of State Shultz when he met them in Bangkok.

Thailand in particular has demonstrated that the Soviet Union is a threat to Asia.

The Thai Foreign Minister has referred to reports that Moscow is installing new missile launching facilities in eastern Siberia that will almost double the number of SS-20 systems aimed at targets in Asia.

Vietnam, he said, was Moscow's Trojan horse in Asia. Soviet air force and naval units stationed in Vietnam had potentially grave consequences for the security of all Asian countries.

They made these countries susceptible to Soviet intimidation tactics, he warned. Last but not least, the Soviet Union threatened vital shipping routes between Europe and the Far East from these new bases.

The Russians now had operational bases in the heart of South-East Asia in the form of air force and naval facilities in Vietnam that were once built with US taxpayers' money.

From these bases Soviet Backfire supersonic bombers could reach US bases in the Philippines and the Strait of Malacca, through which much of the crude oil bound for Japan and other Asian countries passed.

They could not only reach these targets but also return to base without refuelling.

At Cam Ranh Bay, a former US naval base in Vietnam, the Russians have laid on underground fuel tanks and submarine pens.

In addition to other units half a dozen Soviet submarines are constantly stationed there, including three that are nuclear-powered and equipped with nuclear missiles.

In Kampuchea too, a mere 125 miles from the Thai border, Moscow is enlarging the deep-water port of Krong Som, formerly Sihanoukville, and the Ream naval base.



The Soviet Pacific fleet now numbers over 200 vessels, including 45 major fighting units, 150 submarines and 350 fighter aircraft.

The US Seventh Fleet is small in comparison, but the Americans are convinced their 80-odd ships in the Pacific, including three aircraft carriers, and 375 aircraft are more than a match for the Red Fleet.

In 1980 four Soviet warships, led by the aircraft carrier *Minsk*, showed the flag in the Gulf of Thailand.

The US fleet has since visited Thailand more often and held more and larger exercises with units of the Thai navy.

This year alone a round dozen such manoeuvres are planned.

Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia has made Thailand a front-line state, as Mr Shultz pointed out in Bangkok in June, when he demonstratively reiterated America's pledge to come to Thailand's support.

Under Presidents Ford and Carter US pledges of support did not sound

Continued from page 1

Tokyo talks

Alliance obligations toward the United States.

Bonn has certainly realised that Germany and Japan have more in common than mere second-rate trade squabbles.

On security matters the two governments see eye to eye inasmuch as neither imputes that the USSR has intentions of military aggression.

They also agree that maintaining peace and stability is not just a military issue. It is increasingly a matter for economic and development policy.

In Williamsburg the Japanese Prime Minister accepted this new role for his country, which went on to make fresh loans to Central America, the Middle East, Indonesia, South Korea, China and Turkey.

But the Japanese government recently had to admit it would be unable to double its economic aid in five years because of the pressure of Japan's national debt.

The ideas that lie behind White House views on the subject were outlined by US Presidential adviser Norman Mailer in Brussels last May.

In a speech to which considerable importance was attached in Asia he said: "The world's economic centre of gravity is shifting with gathering momentum to the Pacific region."

US trade with the Asian Pacific region already makes up 40 per cent of America's import-export business. Asian countries take a similar view of the trend.

Vice-Premier Rajaratnam of Singapore feels the Asian Pacific region will have outstripped the Atlantic economically by the 1990s.

Asian economists note that newly industrialised countries in the region such

take-over in Indo-China has been unfounded.

A fair number of ASEAN leaders, including Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, are convinced that America's struggle in Vietnam will not be won with an intact crew.

It is clear that the coalition, the Cabinet and the Chancellery are not running

as it should.

There are disputes within the coalition, especially between the CDU and the FDP. A major issue to settle is with

one of the most promising sections of the CDU which thinks there is no need for long-term cooperation with the FDP.

It remains to be seen whether Mr Reagan can be convinced that Schmidt's downfall was an extant in America's preoccupation with detail.

It will be no easy task for Chancellor Kohl to get through a Cabinet meeting to cancel a cabinet meeting with the FDP.

Mr Carter, who was dissatisfied with the autocratic regime of President Marcos in the Philippines, allowed relations

with Manila to cool off.

On Cambodia, for instance, Bonn has so far avoided raising the issue of its foreign policy.

It is also obvious that the Chancellery has not yet become the pivot of Bonn politics, as it was under Schmidt.

There is a lack of coordination both within the government and between the government and the states.

A strong hand to bring back some order is called for.

Chancellor Kohl can hardly be blamed for having kept out of the coalition disputes lately (he is holidaying in Austria, from where he said in an interview that there were no major disputes in Bonn).

For the conflicts are too deep-rooted to be set aside. Any attempt by Kohl to use his authority to end them, therefore, would have been doomed to failure.

Perhaps he feels that leaving the parties to get on with their feuding would wear them out. This would make it easier to bring them to their senses.

as Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea — and they also — faced the count for 20 per cent of world trade on the same day, heedless of the end of the century.

German influence in the region is to be on the wane. It was Japanese who noted at an economic symposium in Düsseldorf that the missiles deployment sounded like a warning addressed to his own government.

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EDU parliamentarian Alfred Dierckx and Bonn Finance Minister

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The FDP leader, Foreign Minister Dietrich Genscher, used his influence to bring back the FDP to the government and the states.

Yet this summer the SPD has presented itself as a champion bore. It has behaved with the inspiration of a book-keeper. Vogel's political intelligence, sensitivity and solidarity have not been able to surmount the lethargy.

Where does salvation lie? Concentrating on the peace issue and disarmament is unlikely to help.

Despite differences there is no force in this country that likes missiles and is bent on pursuing a sabre-rattling alliance policy.

All parties in the Bundestag are peace parties and all of them — except the Greens — are at the same time committed to security.

There is much too much talk of the politics over the missiles deployment and too little of the efforts needed to pursue the economic and fiscal reconstruction policy that will eventually bring employment under control.

By the same token, the Social Democrats — traditionally an ideology party — cannot attempt to return to power by tactical means nor can it wait for the centre-right government to weaken to the point of eventually collapsing.

The existing policy can neither stop the destruction of the environment nor can it present a new class of underprivileged people from emerging: jobless youth, foreigners, academics and blue and white collar workers.

A party that succeeds in presenting new intellectual courage to come up with convincing alternatives on such central

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HOME AFFAIRS

Kohl needs to iron out a few coalition crinkles

about overall policy through regular Cabinet discussion.

One example: the government has been hampered by conflicting statements by Cabinet members over the extent to which Bonn has guaranteed the big bank loan to East Berlin. This shows that, on this point, Ministers were not sufficiently informed.

Perhaps Schmidt's obsession with details and his demand that Cabinet meetings should be attended by all members has its point.

State prime ministers have travelled abroad and to the GDR under previous governments as well. But they did so in a serving rather than a policy-making role.

Strauss did not exercise this restraint while in Rumania, Poland and the GDR and this has raised some doubt as to Bonn's policy line. Government representatives later had to try to do some explaining.

Nobody knows what Strauss's future actions will be. But it seems pretty certain that Kohl will be unable to keep him on a short leash.

This makes it the more necessary to strengthen and activate the institutions on which the Chancellor has a direct influence: the Cabinet, the Chancellery, and the position itself.

The CDU, spearheaded by Kohl and the leader of the parliamentary party, Alfred Dregger, wants a long-term cooperation with the FDP, the only partner



Chancellor Kohl... rumbles in the ranks. (Photo: Sven Simon)

that can provide the majority needed to govern.

As a result, the CDU is trying to be equitable towards its junior partner and, as Dregger puts it, protect it from a situation in which it might no longer be able to keep face.

This applies not only to Bonn but to the states of Hesse and Bremen as well.

The conflict over the bill that would

prohibit

demonstrations from

concealing

their faces and over the statements of Aliens Commissioner Liselotte Fuoco (FDP) would never have arisen if the CSU had pursued the same policy.

Those elements in the CSU that consider a long-term cooperation with the FDP superfluous keep emerging. There will be no peace in the coalition unless Kohl manages to settle this basic conflict.

Heinz Murmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 17 August 1983)

Social Democrats search for a new political identity



Hans-Joachim Vogel... at the helm. (Photo: Sven Simon)

without curtailing personal freedoms, a party that evolves more meaningful forms of work while upholding social justice, could well become the governing party of the future.

The FDP is out of the question as a possible partner in a coalition of structural renewal — at least for the time being.

This leaves the Greens. But if Willy Brandt's vision of a "majority left of centre" is to become reality, the Greens would have to develop from adolescent pranksters into a party capable of being a coalition partner and drafting policy.

This has many a good idea to bring into a coalition.

The old concept of progress as outlined in the officially still applicable SPD Goddesberg Programme of 1959 is an unsuitable instrument for the future.

Even more than before, progress today means a meaningful preservation of the existing.

The belief that science and technology would gradually make the world a better place to live in has been questionable for some time. But so far no political conclusions have been drawn from this.

The social compatibility of technical progress is still to be achieved in a political struggle, and it is realistic rather than romantic who can achieve this.

The SPD has a chance to step out of its opposition role and enter this new territory.

Heinz Murmann

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 August 1983)

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March 1983. Peter Hopen

(Nordwest Zeitung, 19 August 1983)

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■ RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

World Council of Churches runs into some temporal difficulties

The World Council of Churches entered something of a crisis at its general assembly meeting in Vancouver.

The reason is a change in the balance of opinion that has affected many international organisations: Third World nations now have a weightier say.

In terms of numbers of churches and members, Europe and North America no longer dominate. The pendulum has swung towards Asia, Africa and Latin America. The high Third World birth rate means that the swing is growing every year.

The change showed in, among other things, the number of political topics on the agenda: people's survival in this world is the main task of Third World churches.

The catchphrases here are famine, death from poverty, violence, ignorance and the drive to share in humanity's worldly goods and abilities so that the people born in that part of the world can survive.

They took the theme of the meeting, Jesus Christ, life of the world, literally.

Justice took second place in the political discussion and peace was assigned to third place.

But on reading the resolution on peace and justice presented and adopted on the last day of the meeting this scenario appears to be reversed.

In the resolution, peace and nuclear disarmament are pivotal.

The sections on justice give the impression of having been added as an afterthought.

The delegates had too long been kept in groups, and in the end they had little choice but to adopt what they did not fully understand.

As a result, the statement on peace is dominated by the ideas of erudite, Western-educated theologians obsessed with ridding the world of nuclear weapons before the holocaust prophesied by them.

But the applause for the condemnation of the arms race gave no clue as to where the hearts of the delegates lay.

What really mattered to them became clear a few hours later when a proposed peace council of all churches was passed on to the central committee without further discussion.

As opposed to the general assemblies of 1968 (in Uppsala, Sweden) and 1975 (in Nairobi, Kenya), political topics were not given priority in Vancouver. Theology was the dominant issue.

No new insights

Though the Vancouver meeting did not result in any new theological insights, it confirmed the decision made in the past few years that social activities are directly the consequence of Christian faith, theological work and the striving for the unity of the church over which they must not gain the upper hand. Yet this happened over several years to the detriment of unity in the Ecumenical Council.

The political over-activity at the Geneva head office has meanwhile been pared down to size. But that happened



too recently to leave an imprint on the World Council of Churches.

No progress has been made on the main ecumenical question as to a further rapprochement between Geneva and Roma. But the inclusion of the Orthodox Churches, above all the Russian one, has promoted progress in the Ecumenical Council.

One step in this direction was the recommendation to all churches to debate the study "Baptism, Eucharist and Church Office" that was completed in Lima in 1982.

This "declaration of convergence" shows that the teachings of the churches are more similar than generally assumed.

The conciliar community of the Eastern churches envisaged in Nairobi in 1975 was augmented in Vancouver by the objective of a eucharistic community. This is to bring the churches closer to unity; but it is unlikely that it will lead to practical results soon.

In its community of small groups and in its church services, the general assembly clearly bore the stamp of its

secretary-general, Potter, who is to ratify in 1985.

The lack of major events highlighted a work that would have gone under at a more impressive conference, i.e. the statement on community learning.

The church as teacher is not just an ambition but reality.

Twelve hundred years ago, it was monks who taught the German tribes modern agriculture; and 300 years ago it was Pietism that brought development to Prussia.

In development work in the field and in pastoral work in their home countries, it was the churches that initiated the principle of self-help where other institutions had failed.

But the churches are in double jeopardy of losing their link with the people and the sources that once turned them into churches. A church can only fulfil its teaching tasks while it learns. Theology alone will not do.

The empty churches must serve as a warning. The churches must once more learn how to learn. They must learn together with the people — the old, the young, the children, the jobless, the soldiers, the police and the pacifists.

They must learn once more to permit the Bible to speak in a way that will reach the people and they must learn to hold their services in a way that will

What's new in Germany

The Geneva-based World Council of Churches was founded in 1948 as a community of Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and Catholic Churches.

The Catholic Church is a member but it has a close relationship and usually votes together at major events.

The general assembly is convened every six to eight years and has just been held in Vancouver, Canada, is the most important of the organisation.

Every member church has one vote in the assembly. Delegates are handled by the committee, whose members are selected by the general assembly.

In its turn, the central committee appoints the secretary general.

It is a survey that could only have been written from a profound knowledge of events and trends, from lengthy and continuous personal experience and with the detachment of a foreigner.

In each chapter, as he outlines the current situation, Professor Craig refers to the past give them added depth.

What is more, the German reader gains important insights that only an outsider, or rather the outsider's view, is capable of arriving at.

Craig paints a portrait. He tries to capture in its entirety a nation that has been in existence for a millennium.

He seeks to interpret the many forms it has taken in art and politics, law and science in terms of an inner process of development.

"Documents of the 10th century refer to a regnum teutonicum as an established fact, which would seem to indicate that a recognisable national identity or national consciousness already existed."

He deals with the individual sectors of life in a remarkably quick and sure-footed manner, pausing to check time-related changes in German continuity.

6 Democracy is firmly established... Bonn is not Weimar and it never will be

Professor Craig arrives at judgements with a superb sense of detachment and without making the comparisons between national traits that are so popular yet of so little meaning.

He begins his chapter on religion by stating that German intellectuals have so often declared God to be dead that one really ought to be surprised how much space German newspapers still devote to the subject of religion.

The way in which some changes that for the most part are well-known, social and their cloth has put a strain on international differences, for instance.

But if this kind of fundamental opposition by the churches were to fall on deaf ears they, like anybody else, would have no right to take action against constitutionally made decisions, thus violating the law.

Here, too, the churches are under and not above the roof of legitimate state law.

With this in mind, it would be absurd to say that Germany's churches are at odds with our democratic constitution.

But clichés and prejudices were here. They are harmful to all.

Robert L. Craig

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 August 1983)

He has similarly perceptive com-

ments to make on university professors and students, on the Romantic movement, on the military and on Berlin, "Athens on the Spree and a city of critics."

But they lack emotional ties, genuine affection for democracy. Neither in other Common Market countries nor in the United States are law and order as much importance as in Germany.

Elsewhere they come low on the list of people's priorities.

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And if the churches — as in Weimar — aim to prevent the right-wing from monopolising nationalism. In it were to react even more strongly than others because they are very much in tune with the line of Kurt Schumacher, the first leader of the SPD.

This could not be held against the sociologist Helge Pross in her book *Does German Mean Today?* probably inasmuch as reunification is given the power situation, an operational aim of political activity.

But paralysed the activity of the Germans, but no one is satisfied with the state of affairs, neither left nor right-wingers. The German Question must continue to be considered unresolved.

New left-wing nationalism has been reversed. Peter Brandt, the son of SPD leader Willy Brandt, and Harald Schulz have outlined its chronological stages in their documentation on Left and the National issue.

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Special importance attaches to US historian Gordon A. Craig's *The Germans in the context of current literature on Germany*.

It is a survey that could only have been written from a profound knowledge of events and trends, from lengthy and continuous personal experience and with the detachment of a foreigner.

Development aid has neither ended poverty nor reduced the wealth gap between North and South.

Criticism of aid programmes is growing. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, based in Geneva, demanded at its meeting in Belgrade a massive increase in the amount of aid.

Are the failures so far because of not enough aid or is the whole approach wrong?

Gunnar Myrdal, a Swedish economist, once thought that development aid should rise constantly and massively.

Myrdal, a Nobel Prize winner and a former Swedish Minister of Trade, now says that aid programmes should concentrate on care of the poor and disaster relief.

He says: development aid helps the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

Together with Dudley Seers, Myrdal outlined his poverty strategy in a widely noted article written for the London daily paper, *The Guardian*, last year.

The authors emerged the first Brandt Report on development aid with having ignored the true conditions in most developing countries. These countries, the article said, are predominantly dictatorships or have authoritarian governments not interested in helping the poor.

Large amounts of money were either wasted, for instance corruption, or benefited only the ruling elite.

Many donor governments did not keep promises to concentrate their aid on the poorest countries.

Political and commercial motivations played a major role in granting aid.

The authors no longer exempted the previously praised multinational organisations from their criticism.

THE THIRD WORLD

Whole development aid issue comes under scrutiny

They urged governments to continue to step up their development aid. But they called on the donors to make absolutely sure that their aid benefited the most in need.

Non-government agencies, including the churches, should play an important role.

These organisations had moral motivation and the ability to deal directly with local institutions, bypassing governments.

A Bundestag resolution passed by all parties in March last year described the fight against absolute poverty as a priority of German development policy. The main target group was to be the poorest groups.

But only rarely do ideas match the deeds.

Commercial or political motivations dominate the actions of the donors, despite denials.

A small selection of global data indicates that the criterion of poverty in granting aid had only a minimal effect: only 56.8 per cent of the world's government aid went to low income countries in 1981 (i.e. countries with a per capita income of no more than \$410 a year).

And only 21.6 per cent went to the poorest countries that are part of the group.

Aid aimed at combating absolute poverty and improving the social position of the masses is much more complex and protracted, and less spectacular and export-promoting, than traditional financial and technical aid.

It is also less attractive for many donors and meets with serious obstacles in recipient countries.

A late report in 1979 by the then Development Aid Minister, Rainier Offergeld (SPD), said the success of development aid hinged on the developing countries themselves. It was up to them to create the preconditions for the success of foreign aid.

The report hit the nail on the head when it said: "Hierarchic orders aimed at keeping large sections of the population underprivileged or at repressing ethnic groups hinders development. This applies even more to countries where rampant corruption or other gross shortcomings can lead to social unrest or civil war."

Statements by Offergeld's successor, Jürgen Warke, and his parliamentary secretary, Volker Köhler, indicate that the Ministry is prepared to act.

Warke wants to increase discussion with the recipient countries in order to achieve the necessary preconditions for economic and social development.

Köhler stresses the points on which the present development policy differs from that of the previous government, saying: "We want a policy dialogue that will take our legitimate interests into account. The emphasis must be on help towards self-help. The main preconditions for development are such things as a pluralistic society, private initiative and free enterprise."

Decades of experience, he says, have shown "developing countries with elements of free enterprise to be more successful than those with planned economies".

But under no circumstances does Bonn wish to lost its own economic ideas on the developing countries, says Köhler.

Some years ago, when Berlin Senator Elmer Pieroth was still the CDU's development aid spokesman in the Bundestag, he got to the core of the matter by formulating this maxim: "Do nothing to developing countries that don't want it. Don't do everything they want unless it meets our development priorities."

It would be wrong in this connection to speak of violations of sovereign rights or of interference. Outside aid always contains an element of "interference", but no country is forced to accept or offer aid.

It would be absurd to expect a donor to grant aid against his better judgment. And it would be wrong to ideologically malign the "terms and conditions" that go with aid, of these terms and conditions are simply the result of a mutual agreement on the aims and implementation of the aid.

It would greatly promote the successful conclusion of a policy dialogue if all parties concerned realised that even the most massive outside aid cannot solve the internal problems of the recipient countries without parallel measures by their governments.

Otto Matzke

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ and Welt, 12 August 1983)

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■ PERSPECTIVE

Burning issue:
control
over missilesDEUTSCHE
ALLGEMEINE
SONNTAGS
BLATT

US nuclear weapons are stationed in Europe. But the Europeans can neither prevent their use nor ensure that they are used if necessary.

The situation is unquestionably awkward, especially as it involves about 6,000 nuclear warheads.

It may be an ally who decides whether or not to use nuclear weapons, but the fact remains that Europeans have handed over responsibility to foreign power on a matter of life and death.

Yet is it realistic to aim at a European say on the use of American nuclear weapons in Europe, even if it involves only a right of veto or objection to their use?

Neither the Bonn government nor the Opposition seems particularly favourable of this suggestion by the Bavarian Premier, and a glance at Nato history shows there to be sound reasons for restraint.

Europeans have never been entirely happy about US nuclear weapons in Europe being entirely out of their control. An intensive transatlantic debate on this issue was held in the early 1960s.

President Kennedy launched the idea of a multilateral nuclear force (MLF) in a bid to satisfy the European claim to a say in nuclear defence.

The United States was prepared to assign to Nato command five Polaris subs with a combined total of 100 nuclear missiles.

The submarines were to be jointly owned by the Nato countries, manned by mixed crews from various countries, and all concerned would jointly decide on their use.

The proposal was made at a time when General de Gaulle aimed to lead France to fresh glory and constantly irritated the West with his leaps and bounds.

He demanded a three-member directory to run Nato. He had ideas of a European political union and a Franco-German alliance, not to mention a Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

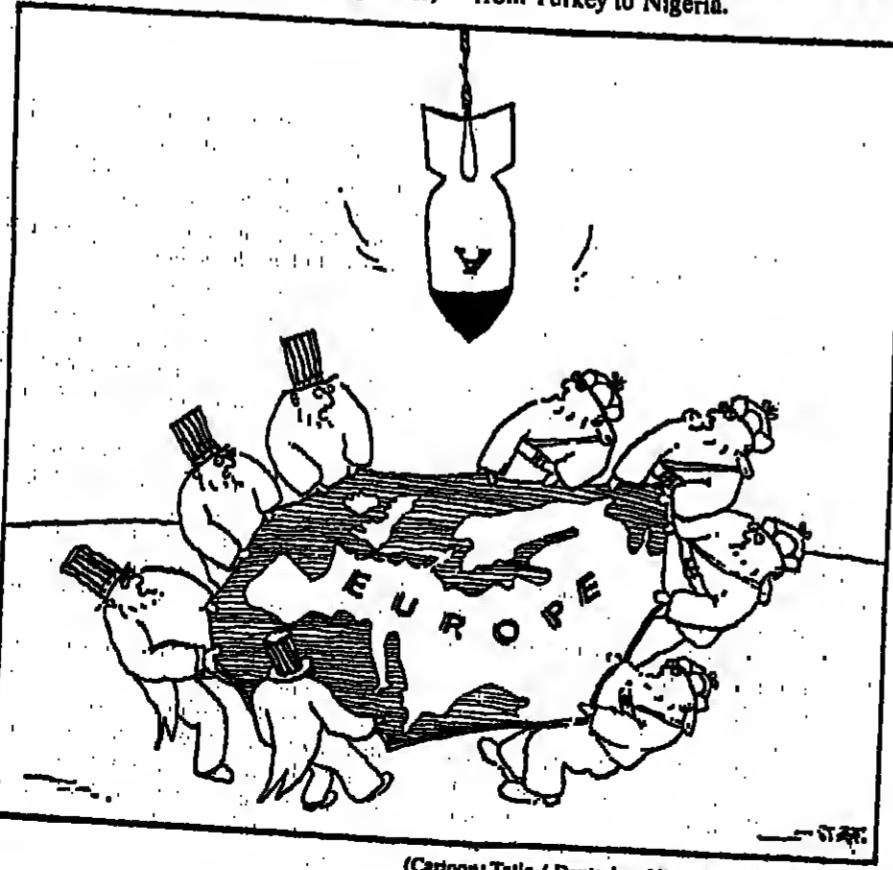
In the wave created by this policy the MLF eventually foundered. Britain bought US missiles and was no longer interested in the multilateral force.

General de Gaulle, who was not offered the same terms by President Kennedy as Britain was, went ahead with the French nuclear force de frappe and eventually withdrew the French armed forces from Nato entirely.

The Americans lost interest in the project because their hopes of persuading Britain and France to scrap their independent nuclear deterrents had been mistaken.

In the end, MLF supporters in Bonn, who included Foreign Minister Schröder and Defence Minister Strauss and von Hassel, were forced to write off the whole idea.

It had never been considered militarily practicable in any case.



(Cartoon: Tatio / Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt)

The debate was not to no avail, however, as Nato set up its nuclear planning group (NPG) in which European Defence Ministers play a part in targeting planning for US nuclear weapons.

The NPG has evolved into a discussion forum for all manner of strategic issues within Nato.

Europeans and Americans also reached agreement on a consultation arrangement in the event of nuclear weapons being considered for use in wartime.

This procedure is acted out every other year in the Fallex staff exercises. High-ranking civil servants and military men who have taken part over the years say agreement has invariably been reached.

So Europeans today have at least a right to discuss the use of nuclear weapons, if not to decide whether or not they are to be used.

Only in Great Britain is there anything approaching a two-key system. US bases in Britain are jointly administered.

US and British troops are to serve alongside each other at Cruise missile bases in Britain, whereas Cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in other Nato countries are to be allocated to purely US units.

Differences

But does this "second key" in British hands mean Britain will be able to prevent warheads from being activated? Will the British government have a legal right of veto on the use of US nuclear weapons from British soil? These are questions on which British views differ.

It is hard to envisage the Americans allowing the Europeans more than a right to consultation. A great power is not going to leave its fate in its allies' hands and not going to make its future depend on majority decisions within an alliance.

That is the difference between other Nato countries and the United States. It is one with which they must learn to live.

It may arguably also be the price they have to pay for being so content to rely on others in matters of defence policy.

Gustav Trampo
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt,
21 August 1983)

Differing attitudes towards
the environment
war and peace

Why are politicians and the public repeatedly surprised by dramatic developments that seem inconceivable until the moment they happen?

Neither was prepared for the total instability of the Shah's regime in the late 1970s or for the disintegration of power structures in Poland after the collapse of the Gdansk regime in 1980.

Both were shocked by the unexpected transition to an apparently alien theocracy in Iran and amazed by the trial of strength between Polish workers and panic-stricken Communist leaders.

It was not just public opinion that was totally unaware of what was about to happen. So were Western politicians, Cologne political scientist Hans-Peter Schwarz cited these two examples in a lecture to the general meeting of the German Association on Foreign Affairs in Bonn.

They were, he said, instances of how the prevailing universal or global approach from the angle of one's own values repeatedly lead to wrong assessments.

Misleading generalisations were the result of neglecting the particular view in relations with other countries, peoples and civilisations.

They resulted from a failure to appreciate the differences in mentality and value systems and too little consideration for the special features of each country, people and region.

Professor Schwarz, whose lecture is in the latest issue of *Europa-Archiv*, the association's fortnightly journal, is by no means opposed to a universal political view of connections and interdependences.

He does, however, recommend more consideration of particular domestic structures and warns against mistakenly applying one's own values to other peoples.

Professor Schwarz makes three points in particular:

- There is a religious dimension in the politics of other countries. It is evidenced not only by Islamic fundamentalism in Iran but also by trends in countries ranging from Indonesia to Algeria and from Turkey to Nigeria.

It is a trend that is trembling into modern cities.

There is also what he calls the power of Buddhist beliefs. The Rhine, Germany's foremost river, is the subject of contradictory mentalism of Protestant and Buddhist. Some say pollution is on the religious outlook of black.

Spirituality is a political factor and hard to understand. The world viewpoint, the mentality that prevails in Germany.

The river still has to handle gigantic amounts of effluent. Yet it continues to be the largest source of tap water in the country.

Yet mistaken assessments of the religious factor in other countries is neglected.

- Views differ on war and peace.

Given the peace-loving nature of the Federal Republic of Germany, many people in the Federal Republic of Germany drink chlorinated water.

Europe as a whole 28 million people drink on the Rhine for drinking water.

Water works are always dismissed as fiction that toxic substances industrial build-ups.

They also fail to take up in the water people drink.

There are nations that still use bank filtration in the soil and resolving their conflicts, active carbon filters used in purifying Chinese and Indo-Chinese waters have always been said to affect the ganges.

Asians and Afghans, the less sufficient guarantee of toxic compounds.

British, the Israelis and the water board officials were bound to understand and to test water works, near Bonn, were conclusions, which would be according to the latest scientific findings to eliminate certain toxic substances from the water.

- Views also differ on water systems. German public opinion in Bonn is a touchy subject.

Water works supplies nearly 100 people in Bad Godesberg and 100 cubic metres of filtered river water per day. Bonn itself has unproblematic piped from a reservoir.

The city council felt unable to let Godesberg water was under strict and decided to take the action to the court.

They find it least difficult to allow for the Communists. But they are much less ready to bring the problem into the glare of publicity: a problem with such as Nicaragua, El Salvador, Turkey and so on.

Unlike Communist countries, almost entirely on the Rhine for tap water, are frequently reluctant to turn off their taps temporarily.

They have spontaneously agreed to take into account specific cases.

Professor Schwarz advises that on the side of the border, it was found that an alarmingly high count of

such a chemical.

Such coincidence would have it, a laboratory vessel of the Dutch International Tribunal Foundation happened

on the river at the time.

On 20 September it had registered an extremely high level of ortho-chloronitrobenzene pollution, over 100 micrograms per litre, at the confluence of the Elbe and the Rhine, about 250 miles from Lobith.

Such cliché-ridden views, argued by a moralising application of the principle of making the offender pay for the damage caused, a principle on which Lower Saxony must continue to insist.

Professor Schwarz was prompted to make these comments in connection with plans to depollute the Weser drawn up by the *Länder* Lower Saxony, Hesse, North Rhine-Westphalia and Bremen.

The Weser, which is formed at Hannover, Münden by the confluence of the Werra and the Fulda, carries a payload of 320kg of salt per second.

That is five times as much as the Elbe and the Rhine. It comes from potash factories in Thuringia, Hesse and Lower Saxony.

Thuringia in the GDR is the main offender, accounting for 270kg of the total. Hesse is to blame for 27kg and Lower Saxony for 20kg per second.

Artificial irrigation of farmland with Weser water has been stopped entirely.

Ortho-chloronitrobenzene causes more than a few ripples along the Rhine

Bad Godesberg were "a little nearer Heaven."

Yet the case raises three problems:

- Toxins such as chloronitrobenzene can penetrate water works filters, and the pollution level in Godesberg tap water in early October is likely to have been much higher.

The first sample was not analysed until it was all over bar the shouting. The previous day the Dutch had started using Rhine water again because their readings were back down to a normal level.

- Purification of toxin-laden Rhine water is total only in respect of substances that are hard to dissolve in water. Readily soluble salts such as are still pumped in substantial quantities from the potash mines of Alsace into the Rhine cannot be extracted by filtration.

As a result it ends up in the tap water of areas served by water filtered on the river bank. Unlike other organic chlorinated compounds, ortho-chloronitrobenzene is fairly easily soluble.

Besides, active carbon grows less effective as a filter with time. About a year ago Plittersdorf water works took to replacing filter units more often because of fears that toxic substances would make a breakthrough.

- The monitoring of Rhine water leaves much to be desired, says Hans-Georg Winter of the Rhine Water Works Association.

The early warning system is of only limited efficiency, given that pollution is only reported that can be seen with

the naked eye. Higher toxin counts are disregarded.

Monitoring must definitely be improved. The Common Market guidelines provide for monthly checks of samples for 51 toxins at water works such as Plittersdorf.

But the EEC regulations have not yet been adopted as a national legal requirement, which they were supposed to have been over a transitional period of two years.

Chloronitrobenzene and nearly 5,000 other industrial chemicals would still not need to be checked regularly even though varying quantities of them are said to be found in Rhine water.

Such exhaustive checks would be out of the question even if companies responsible for pollution were fined heavily.

If the Rhine is to continue supplying good tap water measures must be taken at an earlier stage: the point of input.

Ban needed

Higher charges for effluent containing organic compounds and an absolute ban on pumping poorly degradable toxins into the Rhine could work wonders.

There are occasions when water works officials come out with the unvarnished truth. Klaus Haberer of Wiesbaden water works once told a meeting of the Chemical Industry Association that:

"A special effort should be taken to ensure that effluent substances that cannot be eliminated either entirely or sufficiently by modern purification techniques are not pumped into the Rhine."

That was on 19 October 1982, three weeks after the chloronitrobenzene incident. The organisers reluctantly noted the point.

Egon R. Koch and Uwe Lahl
(Düsseldorf, 12 August 1983)

Across-border river purification
still a source of concern

Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss has come in for criticism in connection with purification plans for a river.

Lower Saxony's Federal Affairs Minister, Wilfried Hasselmann, says Strauss has unnecessarily created a precedent by spontaneously agreeing to pay for purification of a stream that carries heavily polluted effluent from Sonneberg in the GDR over the border into Bavaria.

Herr Strauss, he says, has abandoned the principle of making the offender pay for the damage caused, a principle on which Lower Saxony must continue to insist.

Herr Hasselmann was prompted to make these comments in connection with plans to depollute the Weser drawn up by the *Länder* Lower Saxony, Hesse, North Rhine-Westphalia and Bremen.

When Germany was divided at the end of the Second World War the potash works on either side of the border reached agreement in 1947 and 1951 on effluent quotas.

The agreement held good until 1967. Then, in 1968, water boards in the West began to notice that the GDR was overstepping the mark.

It first overfilled its quota by 100 per cent. By 1972 the GDR was pumping four times as much salt into the river as it should have been.

At one stage the Werra had twice the salt content of the North Sea. Salination changed both flora and fauna in the river.

The ground water bed of the Weser is salted over a width of up to 400 metres. The water tapped from the river has had to be cut back substantially. Artificial irrigation of farmland with Weser water has been stopped entirely.

In 1980 the *Länder* reached agreement with the GDR on export commission to deal with the Weser. In 14 rounds of talks proposals were drafted and included in a paper initialised by both sides a year ago.

They include three measures to help solve the problem:

- Flotation units are to be laid on or GDR potash works of the kind often used in modern ore and salt mining. They separate the various kinds of salt from each other.

Rock salt is stockpiled. Fertiliser salts are processed. Elimination of the rock salt cuts about 65 per cent of the pollution.

- The next step would be to install an underground buffer storage facility as a subterranean reservoir for effluent in summer.

This effluent could be pumped into the Werra in winter and spring when the water flows more freely and in greater quantity.

- A small pipeline could be run to the North Sea to handle such effluent as remained.

The scheme has only been costed in general terms so far. Flotation units are expected to cost between DM150m and DM200m.

Further financial consideration is to be given to the proposals as soon as agreement seems imminent. When that will depend on the GDR.

The GDR has the whip hand because all the water flows north into the Federal Republic.

Josef Schmidt

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 17 August 1983)

■ ARCHAEOLOGY

Mesopotamian quest reveals a deep insight into origins of mathematics

Now ideas about the origin of mathematics have emerged. How they have come to light is revealed here by Ernst Friborg, writing in *Die Welt*. Friborg was at a seminar on the subject at West Berlin's Free University organised by the Max Planck Institute for Educational Research and the University Centre of Roskilde, Denmark.

It was in Mesopotamia, the land between the rivers Euphrates and Tigris in what is now Iraq that the first numerical symbols were etched into clay tablets more than three millennia before Christ.

That was the time when the Sumerians formed the first thriving city-states around the mouths of the two rivers.

The cities' religious and economic life centred around such spectacular temples as that of Uruk, the oldest still preserved structure of its kind.

It was from here that the economic life was administered, irrigation organised and harvests distributed.

One of the most important aids to the administrative work was initially the so-called counting stones, small clay pebbles whose different shapes related to specific types of commodities like sheep, cattle, grain, etc.

This enabled the administrators to keep track of changes in herds of sheep or cattle or the stocks in the temple's grain silos. It also enabled them to keep a check on revenues and spending.

The handling of the stones required no knowledge of mathematics, not even the ability to add and subtract, because they simply reflected the movement of the things they represented.

When the Sumerian culture flowered, the counting stones had already been in use throughout the Mesopotamian region for some 5,000 years.

But it was not until the fourth millennium BC that the administrators first started putting impressions of the stones on clay tablets. (The earliest of these tablets were found in Uruk and Elam in what is now Iraq.)

These impressions were probably the first letter and figure symbols; and it took next to no time for the invention to spread.

Hans Nissen, professor of Asia Minor archaeology, explained at the seminar how the development of the script coincided with the city-states' need for more efficient administrative instruments.

But the first figure symbols found in Sumerian and Elamite clay tablets were not real figures as we understand them today.

Like the counting stones, they related to specific objects. Accordingly, there were various systems of figure symbols; and their structure was determined by the measuring units of the commodities to be counted.

For example, certain figures on the clay tablets stand next to the counting symbols for grain and areas. They relate to each other by the quantity of grain to be harvested from a field of a particular size.

American Professor Marvin A. Powell was one of the pioneers of research into the measuring system used in the third millennium BC. Jörn Friborg, mathematics professor at Göte-

borg University in Sweden, went even further in his research work on the development of measuring systems, delving into the earliest protoliterary texts of the second half of the fourth millennium BC.

Since that script, a precursor of the later cuneiform script, has not yet been fully deciphered, Professor Friborg hopes to obtain some clues about the text by analysing the counting symbols.

Using a grain account relating to bread baking and brewing as an example, he demonstrated to the seminar how the identification of the measuring units used in a clay tablet can serve to decipher its text. He is also attempting to get to the roots of the sexagesimal place-value system.

Unlike our decimal system, which was invented more than 1,000 years later during the early Babylonian period and is based on the figure 10, the sexagesimal system is based on the figure 60.

One of the controversial questions at the Berlin meeting concerned the dating of the origins of today's place-value system.

Professor Powell was able to prove that the sexagesimal system occurred in a text dating from the third Ur dynasty, which preceded the early Babylonian period. This makes it likely that the place-value system is even older than had hitherto been assumed.

The research work of Friborg and Powell has now been augmented by a computer analysis of the more than 2,000 clay tablets that were unearthed by a German archaeological expedition in the 1930s.

The Max Planck Institute for Educational Research presented the seminar with a model depicting the development of mathematical thinking in Mesopotamia.

The model is meant to show how the various object-related figure symbols eventually developed into an abstract concept of figures.

The figure symbols found in the earliest texts were initially no more than an aid to adding and subtracting, used pretty much like the counting stones.

Among the most discussed problems at the seminar was the gradual development of multiplication and division, a development that could have spanned

more than 1,000 years. But the seminar closed without a clear answer to this question.

A large number of strictly mathematical texts of the early Babylonian period (from 2,000 BC) have been found.

The scribes of the era, Babylonians' intellectuals, dealt with problems far removed from everyday application.

Jens Hoyrup of the University Centre of Roskilde suggested that the scribes wanted to enhance their guild position by displaying virtuosity. They were able to deal with problems that would equal today's quadratic equation.

How they arrived at the solution of such problems remains one of the great mysteries of Babylonian mathematics. But Hoyrup demonstrated in Berlin that the mysterious Babylonian acrobatics with figures become understandable when relating them to geometry.

It was by no means a handful of Greek philosophers to whom we owe the discovery of mathematics as a science.

The Greeks were preceded by a development extending over thousands of years. But the Babylonians almost never

ARTS

Higashiyama, master of the Japanese landscape

formulated the methods used in figuring. Instead, it was demonstrated with examples.

Yet there can be no doubt. Babylonians' extensive mathematical knowledge was the result of study rather than chance.

The wrong impression that Persian mathematicians were the first in evolving certain rules that were substantiated by the Greeks' lack of knowledge.

Professor Wolfgang Lefèvre, Institute of Philosophy (who, with Peter Domrow of the Max-Planck-Institute for Educational Research, organised the seminar), suggested that the Babylonians' role here, especially in the field of landscape painting, was not as important as Higashiyama, then the less formalisation of New York Now.

New York Now features 25 young artists from Manhattan with a wide range of subjects and materials: landscape and polystyrene; reflections on foil and hardboard and others from Rubens in acrylic

There is, however, a danger of evoking too much modernism in the old text and thus losing its uniqueness.

Only a comprehensive study of the Babylonians' methods can do justice to the text and shed light on the our own thought processes.

It was this that enabled the Babylonians to evolve a scientific approach to mathematics, close to our own ideas. Furthermore, Babylonian mathematics was much richer than the Greeks'.

There is, however, a danger of evoking too much modernism in the old text and thus losing its uniqueness.

Only a comprehensive study of the Babylonians' methods can do justice to the text and shed light on the our own thought processes.

The Greeks were preceded by a development extending over thousands of years. But the Babylonians almost never

He mostly paints Japanese landscapes: the universally revered Fuji, maple leaves, the fine colour and shadow of which traditionally refer to nature in its entirety, and the mist between tree tops and peaks that is typical of Japan's inland climate.

But his experience of the forest is likely to have been European in origin. A number of his woodland scenes have a Scandinavian look about them; Japanese woods are mostly matted scrub.

Reflecting water is a major feature of many of his compositions. The reflection is at least equal in importance to reality.

This is the result of a sense of beauty that creates reality in parks for the sake of reflection.

Yet despite dealing with objects, Higashiyama's landscapes are not naturalistic.

Tree tops and trunks are superimposed in long shots, while details seen in close-up attain dramatic proportions.

A green streak of lightning on a whitish-grey background is entitled Valley, a bright band behind trees is entitled Echo.

Colours are heightened. A snow-white tree, arguably weighed down by cherry blossom, is shown against a background of dark pine tree tops. Junipers and autumn leaves divide a painting into grey-green and orange.

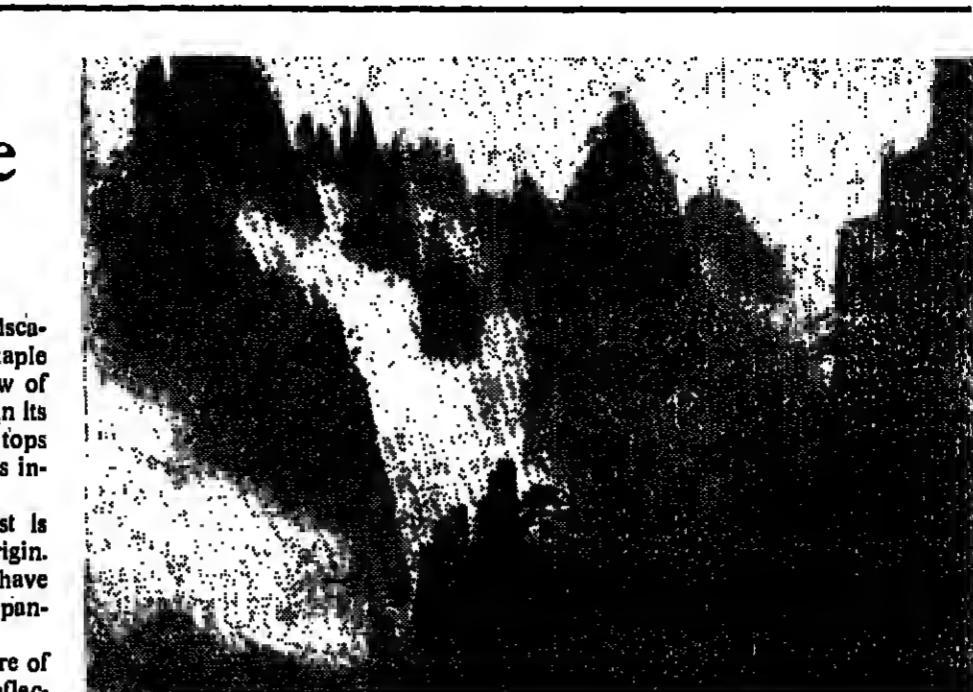
His colours are unusual; so are his paintings. Higashiyama paints with powdered minerals and metals, with vegetable dyes, with cornflour powder and glass dust.

The result is subdued colours and gently shining surfaces (many paintings on show in Düsseldorf are unfortunately behind glass).

The glow of fog, the shadow of the Moon and a vague velvet are favourite effects. The more coarse-grained the material, the darker the colours appear to be.

Dyes are kneaded in glue and then dissolved in water. Higashiyama seldom paints on silk. Paper prepared with glue and alum is his usual medium.

His range of colours is limited, with a growing preference for blue. The Japanese landscape itself makes do with a limited number of basic colours: ash-coloured volcanoes, grey mountains,



Higashiyama's 'Huangshan Mountains after the Rain', 1978.

(Photo: Catalogue)

green trees, yellow bushes. Flowers are strange visitors.

His paintings, mostly large canvases, convey an impression of peace and quiet. Their ambivalence between melancholy and cheerfulness is part of the Japanese character.

They are landscapes devoid of people, with the occasional horse appearing. As the Japanese see nature, mankind does not fit in; he identifies with it, forms part of it.

Two people are always invisibly present in the paintings, Higashiyama says. They are the artist and the person looking at the picture, the recipient of its message.

In the final analysis it is a religious message, since God is in nature according to Shinto beliefs.

So Higashiyama's paintings may fairly be described as religious landscapes, although not in the same way as those of Cuspar David Friedrich.

In Friedrich's work man faces creation in the *Wanderer over the Sea of Clouds* or *The Monk by the Sea*, a painting so monotonous, so Kleist saw it, that it has only the frame in the foreground.

When you look at it the impression gained is "as though your eyelids had been cut off." This view does not stop at the edges of the picture; it is a detail from the infinite.

This is true of Higashiyama too. His paintings are details that seem boundless, but they don't express loneliness or a sense of abandonment. They preach oneness with nature.

It would seem logical that he has

often been commissioned to do paintings for temples. There, his landscapes assume the character of votive tablets.

Sketches from 10 years' work at a temple in Nara, work that is considered to be his magnum opus, are on show in Düsseldorf.

Higashiyama has also gained a reputation of being the national painter, an artist whose paintings are given to visiting dignitaries.

When Japan and China resumed diplomatic ties in 1972 Chairman Mao was sent one of his paintings, entitled Dawn of Spring, as a gift.

When Queen Elizabeth visited Japan in 1973 the Tenno and his wife gave her a Spring Dawn by Higashiyama.

When the Japanese Emperor and his wife visited the United States in 1975 they gave the US President a Higashiyama painting entitled Summer Mountains with White Clouds.

There have been Higashiyama exhibitions in Paris in 1975, Peking in 1978, East Berlin and Leipzig in 1979. One cannot imagine his paintings upsetting anyone anywhere.

He is a great traditionalist who relativises himself. His art, he says, is only one form among many currents. He is relativised in Düsseldorf too, being exhibited alongside work by five younger painters from Japan.

They paint in oil and acrylic paint, much like the artists featured in New York now.

Hans Daiber

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 29 July 1983)

Curious coin custom is among old burial ground secrets

Early antiquity's custom of putting a coin under the tongue of the dead appears to have been in use in southern Hesse during the early Middle Ages (about 600 AD).

This is suggested by the gold coin found in the lower jaw of an old man's skeleton unearthed in the Offenbach-Bieber burial grounds.

The coin was intended as payment for the underworld ferryman Charon for taking the souls of the dead across the River Styx.

It was also customary at that time to provide the dead with food for the journey. This is indicated by the fact that a warrior's grave contained not only the man's skeleton but also the hind leg of a goat.

In an article published in the *Zürcher Natur und Museum*, anthropologist Peter H. Blaßlind (of the University of Zürich) had studied the finds suggest that the Bieber women of the early Middle Ages ranged from 1.55 to 1.80 m, while men stood about 1.70 to 1.75 m.

In other burial grounds of the period in southern Hesse.

The height of the men found in the war. At the opening of his exhibition in Düsseldorf he made a speech, then toured Europe.

He bases his view on skeletons found in other burial grounds of the period in southern Hesse.

Like most people in the early Middle Ages who were about 40 or older and buried in Offenbach-Bieber must have suffered from differing degrees of arthritis of the joints and the spine.

The most commonly affected were the hip and shoulder joints, the lower part of the spine.

The arthritis is attributed to hard labour from early childhood. It seems that the Offenbach-Bieber people of that era had to struggle for a living.

The ground-down teeth of the men pointed to a predominantly vegetarian diet, which is usually harder than meat.

To make matters worse, sand and other mineral impurities entered the food through the milling process.

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(Dr. Weil, 10 Aug)

Good reasons for not using drugs for children's behavioural problems

There are many reasons why drugs should not be used to treat behavioural problems in children, delegates to the seventh world congress for psychiatry were told in Vienna.

A child which has learning difficulties may have an illness. On the other hand it may just be unable to concentrate for long periods. It may suffer from timidity or depression.

Many separate problems can affect the overall behaviour of a child. What makes a diagnosis even more difficult is the lack of dependable studies on the effects of psychopharmaceuticals on children.

Ever since these drugs became available, many parents have felt that they were entitled to have "normal" and "well functioning" children through drugs.

They are wrong. Though useful in treating psychotic and depressive disorders, psychopharmaceuticals are of limited use in children; and they can often be dangerous.

Learning difficulties are now treated primarily by such stimulants as amphetamines and similar drugs.

Professor K. Minde of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto criticised the hasty prescription of these drugs by doctors who omitted to take a closer look at conditions in the child's home and at school.

Learning difficulties can be due to the inability to pay attention long enough (when stimulants can help); but they can also be due to a child's inability to mentally process what it is taught. This would be a genuine learning problem where psychopharmaceuticals are worthless.

Concentration problems occur primarily with so-called hyperactive children. But there is much confusion over this term.

Some people interpret it to mean any kind of odd behaviour while others deny outright that such a thing as hyperactivity exists.

Professor Minde described hyperactive children as those who know no fear in dangerous situations, who destroy everything that comes their way and who fidget instead of paying attention at school.

Hyperactivity, he said, begins in the womb and is noticeable in the first year.

Hyperactive children have considerable problems at school. 15 per cent are slow learners and 50 per cent drop behind because of their inability to pay attention.

These children can be helped with psychopharmaceuticals that enable them to pay attention for a longer period.

But amphetamines promote only mechanical learning: they do not help a child understand new concepts. Moreover, their effectiveness is short-lived.

A few hours after taking the pill, the child is back to where it was before, though it does not forget what it learned under the drug's influence.

But these pep pills are useless with normal children who just happen to be poor learners.

Like all psychopharmaceuticals, stimulants have many side effects, most commonly lack of appetite, insomnia and head and stomach aches. They can also create the impression of robot-like mindlessness.



For this reason and because of their side effects, these drugs should not be used on children for both ethical and practical reasons.

This is important because (as Professor Gerhard Nissen of Würzburg University's Clinic for Child and Youth Psychiatry told the congress) stimulants are easily obtainable in West Germany while stimulants can only be had on prescription.

Professor Nissen advocated maximum restraint in the treatment of juveniles with benzodiazepine-based tranquillisers.

If at all, he said, they should be given for short period only or in conjunction with other psychopharmaceuticals because they can lead to addiction later.

He described fear and apprehension as important and useful for a person's normal development.

Fear of separation can prevent the child from being separated from its mother and fear of the environment makes it regard the family as a haven.

Learning how to cope with fear is part of the growing up process and should not be influenced by drugs.

Adolescents are frequently frightened of such normal developments as leaving

Old age: it's just different from the other ages

People become more complex as they grow older, says a researcher. Paul Beiter, director of the Berlin-based Max Planck Institute for Educational Research, says that flexibility and variability are characteristics of middle age and not old age.

He told the world congress for development psychology in Munich that people developed individual traits as they grew older, they became more different from other people, and more complex.

A University of Pennsylvania delegate, Martin Seligman, said the much quoted mid-life crisis did not affect everybody: But everybody could be faced with uncontrollable traumatic events.

When a middle-aged person was affected by such events he or she could become depressed as a result of blaming him or herself rather than circumstances, he said.

Difficult situations sometimes led to melancholy and to increased drinking.

Susan Frank and her team of the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago studied the connection between self-esteem and drinking in a survey involving 175 pairs of parents (aged between 47 and 78) and their 89 adult children (aged between 24 and 30).

They found that people with a low self-esteem are more likely to reach for the bottle to cope with psychological problems than those who think more of themselves.

Social drinking among those under psychological stress is also more prevalent than among the rest.

Generally, men drink more than women, regardless of the reason, and

the parental home, search identity and sexual relations. In adolescents with conflicts, it is hard to differentiate natural and pathological case of natural fears, the centre was set up five years ago should not be offered "solutions" because of the number of Turkish people suffering from mental stress. Five offer a range of help not in any other German city.

The indiscriminate use of tranquilisers that help without many side effects can cause a smokescreen over patients' ailments that he would call typical.

The difference here was that the Turkish problems were more massive and serious.

In some cases, Professor Aypar can prove useful to admissions of benzodiazepines.

This also applies to patients that cannot be treated with therapy. Here, beta-blockers and diazepines can be useful to their minimal side effects.

But normal examinations are useful because they make a student feel successful, psychopharmacological treatment of children should be done with psychotherapy for his next-of-kin. There is no need for active and passive therapy, nor is it desirable.

Person-to-person help is more important than any prop.

Margot Frankfurter für Deutschland, 10 August 1983

A comparison of the first in 1965 and the last one in 1983 shows that the coincidence between objective and subjective health grows (and the self-assessment improves) through fewer people reporting their health as being better than their doctors say.

In this connection, the contention was drawn to an earlier Ursula Lehr that showed how to have more to do with subjective health.

Activeness, self-confidence and independent action, the congress time and again, could retard and mental decline.

An experiment made by Dittmann-Kohli (Max Planck Institute for Educational Research) in people aged between 60 and 80 confirmed earlier findings: Even in old age, mental training can promote intelligence and give people more confidence in their ability to cope with recurring problems.

Young people are concerned, therapy to enable them to cope with stress is probably the best approach.

Susan Frank's study showed that heavy drinking among these young people is due more to problems at work than lack of self-assurance.

Studies of this kind are important for both individuals and adult education institutions and their progress, where the attitudes and motivations of older people are important.

After all, growing old is not a disease. And many negative forecasts ("most people decline towards the end of their lifespan") materialise only because old people are not trusted to acquire new and useful skills.

Older people should be given a chance to enable them to cope with problems better and with more flexibility.

Look it up in Brockhaus

F. A. Brockhaus, Postfach 1709, D-6200 Wiesbaden 1

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 August 1983)

Continued from page 13

also has a nobleman at the helm, Prince Paul Alfons von Metternich-Winneburg, a descendant of the Austrian Chancellor.

Blue blood is less widespread than might be expected in the armed forces and the diplomatic service. Only one diplomat in 10 is an aristocrat; until 1918 it was nine out of 10.

But Bonn is fast competing with Munich as a stronghold of the nobility. Many aristocrats have headed for Bonn now Berlin is no longer the turntable of the country.

Most work at ordinary jobs. Few

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 August 1983)

■ BEHAVIOUR

Centre helps Turks to cope with stress

suffered from insomnia, headaches, restlessness and extreme fear.

The German psychiatrists of a major state hospital in Cologne were unable to talk to her and therefore never understood what was troubling her. They had to shop on her own and find her feet in the strange country without his help.

Aypar sees this as a typical example of the problems confronting Turks in Germany.

Married by arrangement at a very young age, couples in Turkey have much more scope for keeping clear of each other. "The men have their set of friends; they can go to the village café while the women get together to knit."

In Cologne, her husband became the supreme boss. He knew everything better and took care of everything himself.

The wife was not allowed to shop on her own or talk to anybody because he saw dangers lurking round every corner.

And when, after a long, lonely day at home, she looked out of the window, her husband wanted to know why she was looking out.

After years of being locked up, she withdrew into herself. She did not bother to get up in the morning and neglected the household and the children.

It was not until they talked with Aypar that the husband realised what he had done to his wife.

The realisation did not come from the other women happens to have an open house where she can drop in. This applies even to major cities like Istanbul. But here, the adults are cooped up in a small room, frequently not knowing another soul," says Aypar.

This leads to what he calls an "inexorable proximity."

"At the same time, the women experience entirely new forms of husband-wife relations, making them demand more warmth, tenderness and partnership from their husbands — a demand that isn't easily met."

Many marriages also founder on the rejection the Turks experience from the Germans.

Aypar: "The patients who come to me presuppose that I know about the frostiness that surrounds them, saying 'you know what the Germans are like; they'll never have any compassion'."

When Aypar asks why a patient did not take his problems to work to the foreman he is invariably told: "You know how it is. He couldn't care less whether I live or die."

Many of the people who come to see him consider the Germans heartless. All they ever think of is money.

Aypar understands what troubles them. He knows the difference between this country and Turkey.

"When my wife and I go to Turkey on holiday and arrive at a camping site in the dark, the men in the neighbouring tent is bound to come over and say 'You've come a long way and you must be hungry. Come and eat with us.'

"Not so in Germany. Here, when we arrive with our tent, they hope we'll erect it as far from them as possible."

This, in a nutshell, is the difference between life in Turkey and life in Germany as experienced by most Turks in this country.

And this, according to Aypar, is the

main reason why the Turks in Germany find it so hard to cope.

Their only defence is to withdraw into a cocoon. And this widens the chasm still further.

Women suddenly stop wearing make-up and start wearing head-scarves — something they had long stopped doing in Turkey.

"Men who didn't care about religion at home suddenly become fanatics. It's all a protective wall erected against the environment in which they now live — against rejection and the unfriendliness of the Germans."

Children are the principal victims. They are shuttled between the grandparents in Turkey and the parents in Germany from whom they have become estranged by separation — and they frequently do not know any more where they belong.

Young girls who at home had all the freedoms a child needs, who could climb trees, are suddenly jealously guarded by their fathers.

And young men who would not have dreamed of having a casual affair in Turkey find that only those who "go steady" are somebody among Germans of the same age.

The insoluble conflict wreaks havoc. 14-year-olds start bed-wetting and stuttering from one day to the next. Girls resort to drugs and run away from home. Boys become aggressive, heat up their schoolmates, smash windows and demolish the symbols of affluence around them.

In some people, protest starts very early. One five-year-old patient had not, in two years in kindergarten, spoken a single word. "As soon as he goes inside the building, he clam up. And the moment he is out again he never stops talking."

The relaxation exercises and play at the centre are vital for the boy because he would otherwise inevitably wind up in school for retarded children although he is bright.

He is making good progress now, and there is every indication that he will soon abandon his lonely protest.

If so, he will be one of the lucky ones because the waiting list at the centre is huge. The five staff members are simply not enough for a city the size of Cologne. And not everybody who needs help knows about the centre.

If one 20-year-old women had gone to the centre in time she might have been helped. As it was, in early July — after years of exploitation and suppression by her family — she shot a Turk who wanted to force her into prostitution.

When she was arrested, she said something many of the Turks who come to Aypar readily understand: "I've felt imprisoned up to now. So why should I care if I'm now put into a real prison?"

Ingrid Müller-Münch

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 August 1983)

have made it to top jobs like Count Lambsdorff, the Minister of Economic Affairs, whom Social Democrat Herbert Wehner used to refer to as the economic baron.

Yet Helmut Schmidt as Chancellor had an aristocrat as his foreign policy adviser, while Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has two members of the nobility to advise him.

There are a round dozen blue-blooded members of the Bonn Bundestag. They include Prince Hermann-Otto Solms of Hesse, who has preferred to drop his title.

Evelyn Bohne

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 August 1983)